

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Adeyemo O. Adeyemo, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

NOMINATION OF ADEWALE D. ADEYEMO

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, the Senate is debating the nomination of Wally Adeyemo to serve as the next Deputy Treasury Secretary. I expect his nomination is going to pass with a big, bipartisan margin, but I want to take a few minutes to lay out a few reasons why every Senator ought to support this nominee.

First, you hear a lot these days about how Members of the Senate are looking for unity. Three weeks ago, the Finance Committee approved the Adeyemo nomination unanimously by voice vote, and you can't get more unified than that.

That unanimous vote followed an excellent hearing, in which Mr. Adeyemo demonstrated his command of all the various issues the Treasury is confronting today. A severe jobs crisis. Worsening inequality. A dangerous shortage of domestic manufacturing in critical areas of our economy. Intense economic competition with China, including job rip-offs and trade cheating that have undermined American workers for too long. And many other big challenges.

Members understand that there will be policy disagreements with the other party, but Mr. Adeyemo made it clear that he wants to work on a bipartisan basis to confront these challenges. Members take him seriously on that and trust him because he has done it before at the Treasury as a member of the Obama administration.

Second, the pandemic economic crisis is far from over, and it is essential that the Treasury Department has its leadership team in place. COVID cases and deaths are still tragically high. Jobless claims are still incredibly high—they spent an entire year above the previous peaks. So millions of families in Oregon and around the country are still walking an economic tightrope, and that is one of the key reasons why Senate Democrats passed the American Rescue Plan earlier this month.

The Treasury is right at the center of the enormous effort to implement that legislation. It is extraordinarily challenging work. Getting relief payments out to tens of millions of Americans in a timely way. Saving millions of jobs at the State and local level, particularly teachers, firefighters and municipal workers. Launching a landmark expansion and reinvention of the child tax credit to cut child poverty in half. This is difficult work. It requires the kind of strong and committed leadership that Wally Adeyemo will bring to the Treasury Department.

I am also looking forward to working with him on the issue of shell companies. Late last year Congress passed landmark legislation to end the use of

anonymous shell companies in the United States. Several members of the Finance Committee had spent years working to get that legislation passed. Now that it has become law, it is up to the Treasury Department to write strong rules and implement it. This is a vital challenge, and it is a long time coming. So I am very much looking forward to working with Mr. Adeyemo once he is confirmed. He is as highly qualified as they come. He is also a history-making nominee because he will be the first African American Deputy Treasury Secretary.

I support his nomination 100 percent. He got 100 percent of the Finance Committee's support a few weeks ago. I believe he will have strong bipartisan support from the Senate, and I urge all Members to vote to confirm this nomination.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to the nomination of Wally Adeyemo for Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

The U.S. Treasury Department plays a significant part in enforcing American foreign policy through economic sanctions. We know that sanctions work and that the strong application of these measures against adversaries, including Communist China, Iran, North Korea, Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua, are essential to holding the brutal dictators and their enablers who hold power in these nations accountable.

Communist China is the biggest threat our Nation faces. Communist China is committing a genocide against the Uyghurs, stripping Hong Kongers of their basic rights, and continues to threaten to take Taiwan by force. I am concerned that Mr. Adeyemo does not understand the risk Communist China poses to our national and economic security and to our allies. Communist China is not a strategic competitor; they are an adversary and must be treated as such. Any U.S. official who thinks that Communist China can play a positive role in the world is mistaken.

I am also concerned that Mr. Adeyemo will not be strong when standing up to Castro's Communist regime in Cuba. I cannot support anyone who will back a return to the failed Obama-Biden appeasement policies, which did nothing to help the Cuban people and allowed Havana to extend its reach and expand its control, giving power to other ruthless dictatorships in Latin America.

Currently, our Nation is on track to reach \$30 trillion in debt. We have to get serious about Federal spending and the impacts it will have on our children and grandchildren. President Biden's massive spending policies are already causing the cost of living in America to rise. I cannot support candidates who think the solution to America's economic woes is more government, more taxes and more regulation, not more individual opportunity. That is wrong and will only send us

further into debt and our families further into despair. We need to focus on growing the economy and growing jobs in order to preserve the American dream.

For all these reasons, I oppose Mr. Adeyemo's nomination and urge my colleagues to do the same.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Adeyemo nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

MORNING BUSINESS—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

ALEXEI NAVALNY

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I rise this afternoon to call attention to a courageous Russian hero who is in danger even as I speak. He is a man who has consistently stood up to Vladimir Putin and his cronies and has, on numerous occasions, placed his own life in jeopardy to bring the truth to light. The lawless thugs in the Kremlin often avoid saying his name in public, but here on the Senate floor, I am proud to stand in solidarity with Alexei Navalny.

It was just last August that Alexei Navalny, Russia's foremost opposition leader, was poisoned with a deadly nerve agent. Millions of us remember seeing the video of his being stricken on an airplane and hearing his painful cries, the crew members unsure how to soothe his pain. Thanks to the quick diplomatic work of our friends in Germany, Mr. Navalny was evacuated to Berlin, where he received expert medical attention and, against all odds, recovered from this poisoning.

An ordinary man would have stayed safe and very far away from the Kremlin, but Alexei Navalny is no ordinary man. He is a Russian patriot who envisions a different kind of Russia, one where citizens have a say in government, where freedom blooms, and where the President does not siphon away funds intended for hospitals in order to build secret palaces or to enrich members of his kleptocracy.

So, 3 months ago, Mr. Navalny returned to Russia, knowing full well the dangers he would face. Immediately upon his arrival, he was arrested at the airport for a parole violation, which resulted from his hospitalization, which resulted from his poisoning. He now sits in one of the most notorious penal colonies in Russia, known for its psychological torture. He has been deemed a flight risk and is awakened eight times a night under the guise of monitoring his whereabouts. His lawyers were recently prevented from seeing him. Reports are that he is suffering from severe back pain and other health